Partnering with Parents
for Administrators
Confratute 2018

Pam Peters
University of Connecticut

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- Doctoral student and research assistant at University of Connecticut: My research interests include issues of equity: parent/school partnerships, pre-identification prep programs, and social/emotional issues of underrepresented minorities and first-generation college students.
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- Mother of 2 gifted children: Ben is 13 and skipped 3rd grade, and Sophie is 7 and started kindergarten early
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- Former math coach and enrichment cluster leader

What are the benefits to partnering with parents?
Common questions parents have about gifted education

How do educators determine if my child is gifted?

What programs does my child’s school have for gifted students?

What if I disagree with or don’t understand something?

How can I get involved or help?

How can I find out what my child does in her gifted program?

Who can I talk to about my child’s perfectionism (or other issue)?

Common frustrations parents have about gifted education

Why isn’t my child in the gifted program?

Why is the G/T program only once a week? My child needs more all the time!

The school/teacher never asks for my input or listens to me!

I have time and skills to offer- but they only ask me to bake cookies or do something at times

I’m not available.

Other parents don’t understand that giftedness can be a challenge.

I never get any information about the program, or what they send home is not in my language.

I can’t talk to the teacher during school hours!
What does your district do or provide to support the parents of gifted students?

District Website/Handbook

Program specifics and justification- explain the Schoolwide Enrichment Model, outline the parts you implement, and provide links to the research!

Identification process or timeline- explain whatever it is that your district does. This process should be aligned with the services you offer. If this isn’t clear, explain it.

Do not use educational jargon!
Parent Information Nights

- Provide information on a specific topic: program specifics, Talent Search programs/scholarships, enrichment programs, underachievement, perfectionism
- Give parents the opportunity to meet each other and network
- Invite an expert to speak

Parent Advisory Committee

- great way to gather data or discuss ideas from a small group of parents
- be sure your group is as representative as possible
  - School, race, SES, language
- be sure the group is public- you do not want people to feel excluded
- meet regularly and follow up with ideas or concerns that are raised
Choose at least one of these to work on this school year. What is your goal?

What is your deadline?
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